

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN APRIL 2000

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in April 2000 decreased 9% compared with the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized production for the year was 39.9 million metric tons, which was 2% lower than total production in 1999.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for April, increased 6% from the prior month, to 3.3 million tons. Annualized sales or use for the year was 38.4 million tons, which was 7% lower than the total for 1999.

U.S. producer ending stocks for April were slightly lower than the figure shown in March.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census. U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 170,000 tons per month in 2000. April import data were not available at the time of publication.

Annualized domestic consumption for 2000 was calculated to be 40.1 million tons, using annualized sold and used data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 1999, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted trade data, was 43.2 million tons.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) approved the joint venture between FMC Corp. and Solutia Inc. to manufacture and market phosphorus products. The new company, Astaris LLC, will include manufacturing facilities in Carteret, NJ; Lawrence, KS; Green River, WY; and Kemmerer, WY. The included Solutia plants were located in Carondelet, MO; Ontario, CA; Augusta, GA;

Trenton, MI; Sauget, IL; and Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil.

In addition, Solutia will supply elemental phosphorus from its Soda Springs, ID plant. However, its share of the P4 Production LLC joint venture agreement with Monsanto Co. is not included in the agreement.

Astaris will assume all previously announced agreements between NuWest Industries Inc. and FMC related to a new purified phosphoric acid plant that is under construction near Soda Springs, ID. As part of FTC approval, Astaris must sell its phosphorus pentasulfide operations at the Lawrence plant and the entire Augusta facility (Green Markets 2000a).

U.S. fertilizer consumption dropped 2.6% in crop year 1999 (July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999) from that of crop year 1998, according to The Fertilizer Institute and the American Association of Plant Food Control Officials. In terms of nutrient tonnage,  $P_2O_5$  consumption fell 8% from 4.19 million tons to 3.85 million tons. On a product basis, consumption of diammonium phosphate and monoammonium phosphate, decreased by 9.4% and 4.9%, respectively (Green Markets, 2000b).

## References Cited

- Green Markets, 2000a, FTC approves FMC-Solutia phos JV: Green Markets, v. 24, no. 16, April 17, p. 8-9.  
———2000b, U.S. fertilizer consumption down 2.6 percent in fy '99: Green Markets, v. 24, no. 16, April 17, p. 1.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
United States:			
1999 p/:			
April	3,280	3,640	6,880
May	3,680	3,940	6,620
June	3,690	3,400	6,910
July	3,540	3,610	6,750
August	3,690	3,530	6,920
September	3,140	3,220	6,820
October	3,560	3,290	7,040
November	3,120	3,280	7,060
December	3,050	3,130	6,990
January-December	40,700	41,300	XX
2000:			
January	3,060	3,200	6,800
February	3,280	3,040	7,030
March	3,620	3,130	7,530
April	3,280	3,320	7,500
Total	13,200	12,700	XX
Florida and North Carolina:			
1999 p/:			
April	2,780	3,150	5,620
May	3,100	3,340	5,380
June	3,030	2,940	5,430
July	2,980	3,010	5,300
August	3,080	3,070	5,320
September	2,690	2,700	5,300
October	2,840	2,880	5,200
November	2,810	2,880	5,300
December	2,700	2,710	5,300
January-December	34,900	35,800	XX
2000:			
January	2,810	2,770	5,280
February	2,910	2,670	5,520
March	3,130	2,690	5,960
April	2,880	2,740	6,110
Total	11,700	10,900	XX
Idaho and Utah:			
1999 p/:			
April	499	483	1,260
May	582	604	1,240
June	662	461	1,480
July	563	602	1,440
August	614	459	1,600
September	445	520	1,530
October	726	407	1,850
November	306	392	1,760
December	352	425	1,690
January-December	5,870	5,530	XX
2000:			
January	260	430	1,520
February	370	373	1,520
March	488	431	1,570
April	401	576	1,400
Total	1,520	1,810	XX

p/ Preliminary. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
1999:		
March	68	3,670
April	66	4,000
May	69	4,110
June	64	3,820
July	1	69
August	88	5,000
September	132	6,730
October	68	4,040
November	67	4,010
December	(3/)	26
January - December	746	42,200
Total year 4/	2,170	123,000
2000: 5/		
January	68	4,100
February	1	62
March	183	7,500
Total	252	11,700

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

4/ Includes an estimate for data suppressed by Bureau of the Census.

5/ Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	1998	1999 p/	2000 1/
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	38.7	34.9	35.4
Idaho and Utah	5.5	5.9	4.6
Total 2/	44.2	40.7	39.9
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	38.0	35.8	33.0
Idaho and Utah	5.6	5.5	5.5
Total 2/	43.7	41.3	38.4
Yearend stocks	7.9	7.0	7.5
Exports 3/	0.4	0.3	0.3
Average value per ton	\$42.70	\$48.94	\$41.86
Imports for consumption e/	1.8	2.2	2.0
Average value per ton	\$52.66	\$56.54	NA
Apparent consumption e/ 4/	45.0	43.2	40.1

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. NA Not available.

1/ Annualized data.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Source: Bureau of the Census.

4/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.